United Nations S/2015/787

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 October 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 8 October 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2237 (2015), adopted by the Security Council on 2 September 2015, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Liberia for a period of 10 months.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, I have appointed the following expert:

Lansana Gberie (Canada)

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

15-17873 (E) 151015

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United Nations S/2015/788

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 October 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my letter to the President of the Security Council dated 20 May 2015 (S/2015/385), I conveyed my intention to organize a ceremony to award the Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage on the occasion of the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in September 2015. I wish to bring to the attention of the Council recent developments regarding the Medal.

In response to my request for nominations for the Medal, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations received eight nominations from four field missions. A Board comprising representatives from the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Political Affairs and Field Support and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights subsequently reviewed the eight nominations to assess whether the acts of courage described therein met the high standards of courage displayed by Captain Diagne, as set out in my letter to the President of the Security Council dated 16 December 2014 (S/2014/946). These require that the recipient of the Medal demonstrate exceptional courage by going above and beyond the call of duty while putting his or her own life at risk in an effort to save and protect the lives of others. Solid corroborating evidence in the form of witness statements, along with other substantiating and supporting documents, is also required.

The assessment process highlighted the courage demonstrated by uniformed and civilian personnel serving in United Nations peace operations in the performance of their daily duties. However, the Board concluded that none of the acts of the eight candidates met the very high standards required for the Captain Diagne Medal. Specifically, while a number of the candidates demonstrated considerable bravery in defending the lives of others, their actions remained in line with expected performance. Moreover, in some cases, no corroborating evidence was available.

I therefore wish to inform the Security Council that I have decided not to organize a ceremony to award the Medal in the margins of the General Assembly but instead to hold an event with the Diagne family later in 2015 to recognize the extraordinary courage of Captain Diagne and his acts of bravery as a United Nations peacekeeper.

I will continue to stress the importance of the Medal to the heads of the United Nations field missions, asking that they prioritize the identification of eligible candidates for the Medal in the coming years.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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United Nations A/70/429–S/2015/789

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 October 2015
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 108
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 14 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

The Russian Federation has taken a number of measures in response to a request from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Government of the Russian Federation to cooperate in countering terrorism and to provide military support for the counter-terrorism efforts of the Syrian Government and the Syrian Arab Army. Those measures include providing air support for ground operations conducted by the Syrian Arab Army in its war against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations. The Russian Federation is also striking the bases, camps, munitions depots and command posts of armed terrorist groups that are in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

This support, which is being provided in response to a request from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, is fully consistent with international law, the Charter of the United Nations, international counter-terrorism instruments and Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), all of which reaffirm the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic has repeatedly called on the international community to cooperate and coordinate with it fully and closely, whether in a multilateral or bilateral context, but those calls have fallen on deaf ears. Instead, some States have perverted the substance of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations in order to violate the sovereignty of Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic expresses its profound gratitude to the Russian leadership, people and army for their efforts to counter terrorism in accordance with international legality, international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It also stresses that the actions of the Russian Federation should be emulated by other

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States and that the efforts of Russia to counter the terrorism perpetrated by ISIL, the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations associated with Al-Qaida will bring about conditions that are conducive to the success of the political process in Syria.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/ES-10/696–S/2015/790

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
15 October 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 14 October 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Since our last letter to you, on 12 October 2015, members of the Palestinian civilian population, including women and children, have continued to be killed, injured and terrorized as a result of Israel's latest rampage of aggression throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. As we continue to write these letters, we must emphasize that the purpose of writing them is not only to place on record the long list of crimes committed by the occupying Power against a defenceless and occupied civilian population but also to mobilize the international community, in particular the Security Council, to immediately act to halt all of the occupying Power's violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law.

Furthermore, as more and more Palestinian civilians, especially young children, are being killed and severely injured by live ammunition, we continue to call upon the international community to provide the Palestinian people with international protection. It is without a doubt that each day that passes the situation is worsening, and if the occupying Power continues to pursue its acts of aggression, collective punishment and State terrorism against an occupied people who have already suffered so much over the past five decades of Israeli occupation, the situation will hit a breaking point that may become impossible to stabilize.

The following are some of the many crimes that continue to be perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces and terrorist settlers against the Palestinian people. This includes the latest Palestinian casualties caused by the violence and terror of the occupying Power against our defenceless civilians:

On 13 October 2015:

- According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, as at 13 October 2015, 30 Palestinians had been killed by the Israeli occupying forces since the

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beginning of the month and over 1,400 Palestinians injured by live ammunition and rubber-coated steel bullets used by the Israeli occupying forces across the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, at least 33 journalists had been injured since the beginning of October 2015, 15 of them with live and rubber-coated bullets.

- Alaa Abu Jamal (age 33) was shot in East Jerusalem by Israeli occupying forces and was seized afterwards by Israeli occupying forces.

- The occupying Power took a decision to seal off Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem and to erect additional checkpoints clearly constituting a form of collective punishment in violation of the occupying Power's obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. In a statement, Human Rights Watch stated: "Locking down East Jerusalem neighbourhoods will infringe upon the freedom of movement of all Palestinian residents rather than being a narrowly tailored response to a specific concern. The checkpoints are a recipe for harassment and abuse." Frightfully, it was also decided that the occupying Power would make obtaining permits for personal firearms even easier for Israeli individuals.

- Mutaz Ibrahim Zawahreh (age 27), from the Dheisheh refugee camp, was shot and killed by the occupying forces with a live bullet in the chest during a military raid in Bethlehem.

- According to the Palestine Red Crescent Society, over 400 Palestinians were injured during raids by the occupying forces on 13 October in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, at least 31 of whom were shot with live ammunition.

- Terrorist settlers attacked olive farmers near Turmus'ayya and Tal villages, south and west of Nablus, and stoned Palestinian cars on the Ramallah-Nablus Road, as well as near the town of Yatta in Al-Khalil.

- Several farmers, including Mohammad Ishtayeh, Ahmad Hindi, Meqdad Zeidan and Karim Ramadan, were detained and attacked by the terrorist settlers, under the watch and protection of Israeli occupying forces.

On 14 October 2015:

- A total of 36 Palestinians were detained overnight and 4 others were summoned by Israeli forces throughout the West Bank.

- A 13-year-old Palestinian boy was shot in the eye and seriously injured with a rubber-coated steel bullet in Surif town, north-east of Al-Khalil.

- Israeli settlers set fire to large swathes of Palestinian-owned agricultural land near the village of Burin, south of Nablus in the West Bank.

- Bare' Ismael Shalash (age 17) was shot and injured in Beit Awwa, west of Al-Khalil.

- Palestinian detainee Fadi Al-Darbi (age 30), who had suffered a stroke while in Israeli captivity in prison, died in an Israeli hospital.

- Basel Sidr (age 20) was shot with more than 10 bullets and left to bleed on the ground until he died at the Damascus Gate in occupied East Jerusalem.

As the violations against Palestinian children continue to multiply, we continue to insist again that the Israeli Government, the Israeli occupying forces and Israeli settler militias belong on the list of grave violators of child rights in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, and we will not relent in calling for such listing in the face of ongoing violations and crimes against our innocent and defenceless children.

It is without a doubt that the above-mentioned violations are in grave breach of international humanitarian law, as well as international criminal law as articulated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. For these war crimes, we will continue to seek accountability and justice through all legal and peaceful means. At the same time, we call again upon the international community, particularly the Security Council, to act now to protect the Palestinian people and defuse this dangerous situation, which clearly constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

The international community must ensure that international protection is provided to the Palestinian people in order to spare them from more loss and suffering. As we have stated in the past, the Palestinian people cannot remain the exception to the responsibility to protect civilians from atrocities and flagrant breaches of the law, for they are not just statistics but human beings whose lives are being constantly shattered by a brutal occupier that proves over and over again its total disregard for the lives and rights of the Palestinian people and total contempt for international law. The time is now for the international community to finally bring an end to Israel's impunity and to justly resolve this conflict and bring overdue justice to the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our 558 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 12 October 2015 (A/ES-10/695-S/2015/777), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador and Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/70/427–S/2015/791

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 October 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to convey Armenia's grave concern about the significant escalation of tensions along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and across the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan at the end of September 2015.

This latest escalation of tensions introduced new, alarming trends. First, there was an increase in the number of casualties among both the civilian population and military personnel. Three Armenian civilians from two border villages in Armenia were killed by Azerbaijani armed forces with the use of mortar launchers. The three victims were women, two of them elderly. They were killed in their own houses and farms, far from military positions.

Second, Azerbaijani armed forces shelled the military infrastructure of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Army, located 5 km from the line of contact, using 120 mm mortars, 107 mm rockets and 122 mm D-30 howitzers. The last-mentioned was used for the first time since the signing of a ceasefire agreement in 1994. The heavy shelling resulted in 4 casualties and 16 wounded from the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Army.

Killing civilians in border territories and shelling military infrastructure far away from the line of contact demonstrate a deliberate choice by Azerbaijan to escalate tensions into new a stage of confrontation.

The intentional targeting of civilians, along with the systematic torture and killing of civilians from the border territory of Armenia who fell under the custody of Azerbaijan, may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Such crimes should not go unpunished. We call upon the international community to condemn in the strongest terms the crimes perpetrated against civilians.

15-18052 (E) 231015

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It should be stressed that the timing of this deliberate escalation is certainly not accidental. Azerbaijan has developed an ill practice of escalating tensions, including at the expense of human casualties, ahead of important visits to the region and high-level meetings, thus undermining and impeding the negotiation process. The latest renewed provocation by Azerbaijan came as a response to the expectations expressed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs on holding productive talks between the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in New York at the end of September. I attach to the present letter a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the meeting of Minster for Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs of 24 September 2015 (see annex I).

The introduction of an investigative mechanism to ceasefire violations is essential in maintaining a ceasefire and putting an end to the blame game. Armenia has once again reiterated its agreement to introduce such an investigative mechanism, while Azerbaijan continues to reject it. This fact is acknowledged by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group in their press releases of 26 September 2015. I attach to the present letter their statement (see annex II).

Furthermore, the consistent efforts of Azerbaijan to downsize the presence of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office of OSCE fit into the overall policy of Azerbaijan to prevent the consolidation of a ceasefire.

Finally, it is evident that, when Baku is interested in a ceasefire, as was the case during the European Games, held in Azerbaijan in June 2015, its armed forces are able to maintain it quite efficiently. The data on ceasefire violations before, during and after this event are very illustrative in this regard. This fact points most clearly in the direction of the party initiating ceasefire violations.

Armenia firmly believes that the process of a political settlement of the conflict requires favourable conditions on the ground. To reach fair, lasting and negotiated peace, the ceasefire regime needs to be firmly consolidated and human casualties need to come to an end.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Edward Nalbandian meets Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group Co-Chairs

24 September 2015

Upon arrival in New York on the evening of 24 September, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Igor Popov, James Warlick and Pierre Andrieu. Andrzej Kasprzyk, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, participated in the meeting.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia expressed his indignation to the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs over the gross violations of the ceasefire by Azerbaijan, which caused human losses among the civilian population.

"Azerbaijan has developed a bad practice of escalating the situation, even at the expense of human casualties, on the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh and the border with Armenia, ahead of important visits to the region and high-level meetings, thus undermining the meetings and impeding the negotiation process", underlined Minister Nalbandian.

Strongly condemning the killing of three Armenian citizens as a result of a ceasefire violation by Azerbaijan, Minister Nalbandian said, "This, yet another provocation by Azerbaijan, came as a response to the expectation, expressed by the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, of holding productive talks between [the] Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers in New York".

The possible steps towards the stabilization of the situation were discussed at the meeting.

Annex II to the letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press statement by the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group

New York, 26 September 2015

The Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group (Ambassadors Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, James Warlick of the United States of America and Pierre Andrieu of France), together with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, held a meeting on 24 September with the Foreign Minister of Armenia, Edward Nalbandian, and a separate meeting on 25 September with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov. They also met jointly with the two foreign ministers to discuss the immediate need to reduce tensions along the line of contact and international border, to advance negotiations on a lasting settlement and to implement confidence-building measures. The ministers agreed to continue preparations with the Co-Chairs on the next presidential summit, which is expected to be held before the end of this year.

The Co-Chairs called for the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to accept an OSCE mechanism to investigate ceasefire violations. Without such a mechanism, the sides will continue to blame each other for initiating deadly attacks on the line of contact and Armenia-Azerbaijan border. Armenia has agreed to discuss the details of the mechanism, and we urged Azerbaijan to do the same.

The Co-Chairs condemned in strong terms the use of artillery that caused additional casualties in the last 24 hours. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the deceased. An escalation of violence is not in the interest of Azerbaijanis or Armenians, or a negotiated settlement.

The Co-Chairs encouraged the sides to implement people-to-people programmes to build trust between societies affected by the conflict.

United Nations S/2015/792

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 October 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the letter of Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that, in response to a request from the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Bashar al-Asad, to provide military assistance in combating the terrorist group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other terrorist groups operating in Syria, the Russian Federation began launching air and missile strikes against the assets of terrorist formations in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic on 30 September 2015.

This decision was taken in the light of the extremely dangerous crisis that has unfolded in Syria, which has the potential for further expansion as a result of the activities of international terrorists and extremists.

The threat posed by ISIL and other terrorist groups clearly extends far beyond the region of the Middle East and North Africa. Their elimination requires truly collective approaches, based on the norms and principles of international law and the provisions of the United Nations Charter, bringing together each and every force committed to defeating terrorism and ensuring their flexible and efficient coordination. The Russian Federation has therefore submitted specific proposals to the Security Council aimed at establishing a united front to combat terrorism.

Bearing in mind our common goal to eliminate the terrorist threat in Syria, I also consider it highly important not to relax our efforts to advance a genuine inter-Syrian dialogue based on the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012, and to create the conditions to begin negotiations between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the patriotic opposition. In this context, I reaffirm the Russian Federation's support for the work of Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura to launch the process of a political settlement and its intention to further assist him in successfully carrying out the substantial tasks assigned to him in the context of the Syrian crisis.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

United Nations S/2015/793

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 October 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you a concept note for the Security Council open debate on working methods, which will be held on 20 October 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**

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Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the open debate in connection with the item entitled "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)", 20 October 2015

I. Introduction

The working methods of the Security Council continue to be an important issue for the United Nations membership at large. Although the Council has continued to adapt itself to constructively address several concerns about its working methods, transparency, participation, accountability and efficiency remain key topics in the discussions within and outside the Council and areas in which the majority of Member States consider that there is room for further improvement.

II. Proposed issues for debate

In the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2013/515), the Council committed itself to implementing a number of measures to enhance its efficiency and transparency, in addition to its interaction and dialogue with non-Council members and bodies. The upcoming open debate presents an opportunity to consider how the Council can continue to improve all of these aspects in its relationship with non-Council members and bodies, in particular the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat.

Delegations are further invited to draw lessons from the past five years of developments in the working methods of the Security Council. Building on the experience of previous discussions, the open debate is also the occasion to identify areas and means, including through the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, to improve the way the Council implements the range of previously agreed measures contained in the note by the President of the Council (S/2010/507) and subsequent notes agreed by the Informal Working Group.[1]

III. Context

The relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly is founded on a set of dispositions laid down in the Charter of the United Nations (Articles 4-6, 10-12, 15 (1), 20, 23, 24 (3), 93 and 97). It encompasses peace and security issues, the appointment of the Secretary-General, the elections of judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, recommendations of the General Assembly to the Council, the annual and special reports of the Council, and the relations between the Council and certain subsidiary organs established by the General Assembly.

[1] S/2012/402, S/2012/922, S/2012/937, S/2013/515, S/2013/630, S/2014/268, S/2014/393, S/2014/565, S/2014/739 and S/2014/922.

The importance of the way the Council works and its relationship with the General Assembly will be underlined in 2016 with the upcoming election of the Secretary-General.

Recently, there have been a growing number of calls, within and outside the United Nations, for more transparency and inclusiveness in the process of selecting the next Secretary-General.[2] Different initiatives and proposals are already circulating. A common denominator in all of the different initiatives and proposals is the belief that the next chief of the Organization should be selected through a more interactive, dynamic and transparent process.

In July 2015, under the presidency of New Zealand, the Security Council held its first informal discussion on the process for the selection of the next Secretary-General, under "Any other business".

For its part, on 11 September 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/321 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, in which it requested the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council to start the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General.

On the other hand, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development brings new impetus to the relationship between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. In January 2015, the Security Council underlined that "security and development are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing and key to attaining sustainable peace" (S/PRST/2015/3). The 17 recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals thus provide an opportunity for the two bodies to build on best practices and take a renewed and active role in following up on implementation.

Furthermore, the debate is also the occasion to reflect on how the Security Council and the Secretary-General can work better together to maximize impact on the ground. In addition to the administrative functions, Articles 98 and 99 of the Charter set the basis for several other functions entrusted to the Secretary-General, which also shape the relationship between the Council and the Secretariat. These functions include measures to ascertain the facts, good offices, joint efforts to promote political settlements, peacekeeping and implementation of peace agreements, support to international and special tribunals, and implementation of sanctions regimes.

IV. Format and participants

Open debates should provide a platform for communication and interaction between the Security Council and the wider membership of the United Nations to feed future deliberations of the Council. The reality, however, is that open debates,

[2] The Secretary-General is elected by Member States under a process outlined in Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, rule 141 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council. Article 97 of the Charter provides that the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. In practice, this is formalized through the adoption of a resolution by the Assembly. Under rule 83 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this decision is an important question that requires a two-thirds majority. Rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council requires that the recommendation be discussed and decided at a private meeting, unless otherwise agreed.

aimed primarily at listening to the general membership, have become day-long meetings that lack interactivity. Furthermore, outcomes of these Security Council debates, such as resolutions and presidential statements, are commonly adopted at the beginning and, less frequently, at the end of the meeting, without actually reflecting the interaction and dialogue between the Council and the other members of the United Nations that an "open debate" should represent.

Spain would like to encourage further implementation of several of the actions foreseen in the note by the President (S/2010/507) and subsequent relevant notes aimed at improving the working methods of the Security Council. The debate on working methods is the perfect opportunity to move from theory into practice.

The main goals are (i) to reduce the overall length of the debate, while retaining its substantive component, thus improving the efficiency of the Council; (ii) to ensure the effectiveness of the debate by having an outcome; and (iii) to improve transparency and interactivity through an outcome to be adopted at a later stage, thus also taking into account the relevant views of the wider membership.

The President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council will deliver brief introductory remarks.

Joint statements, including from members of the Security Council, are strongly encouraged. Speakers are also urged to refrain from the usual introductory compliments. The following guidelines will be observed regarding the allocation of time:

- Joint statements by groups — up to 10 minutes
- National statements complementing joint statements — 2 minutes
- National statements — 3 minutes

The President of the Security Council will close the debate, capturing the main elements identified during the meeting that will shape the outcome to be issued at a later date.

To facilitate the discussion on the working methods of the Security Council, the Secretariat is further developing and adding information to the website of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions (https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/subsidiary/wgdocs). The provisional verbatim records of the meeting will also be made available on the website, at https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/subsidiary/wgdocs/s/2010/507.

V. Outcome

The importance of the working methods of the Security Council speaks for itself. Over the years, innovation and adaptability have been among the distinctive features of the Council. It is thus proposed that Council members consider the debate an opportunity:

(a) To reaffirm their commitment to implement the measures already agreed upon and to actively consider and adopt improved practices, while reflecting the main elements coming out of the open debate;

(b) To reflect the Council's efforts to improve the flow of information and the exchange of ideas between the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat, and between the members of the Security Council and other Member States;

(c) To support and guide the future work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, which is an important forum for discussion within the Council about its working methods.

Member States are invited to send their written proposals by 3 p.m. on 21 October to the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations, at rep.nuevayorkonu@maec.es, copying elisabete.palma@maec.es.

United Nations S/2015/794

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 October 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 5 October 2015 from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross containing the "Ethical principles of health care in times of armed conflict and other emergencies" (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun Marchesi**

15-18112 (E) 221015

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Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is my pleasure to enclose herewith the "Ethical principles of health care in times of armed conflict and other emergencies" (see enclosure). This common code governing the work of health-care professionals has been agreed upon by the World Medical Association, the International Committee of Military Medicine, the International Council of Nurses and the International Pharmaceutical Federation and endorsed by the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations.

Those organizations, which represent over 30 million health-care professionals from both the civilian and military realms, were consulted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the framework of the Health Care in Danger project, an initiative undertaken by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to improve the safe delivery of health care in situations of armed conflict and other emergencies.

In 2011, under the auspices of the Health Care in Danger project, the ICRC started analysing data about violent incidents that affected the delivery of health care. Its latest report, released in April 2015, analyses data about 2,398 incidents, collected in 11 countries, from January 2012 to December 2014. The report revealed in particular that health-care personnel were subjected to threats and coerced to act against the ethical principles of their profession and/or to provide free medical treatment. Many were beaten, wounded, arrested and sometimes killed.

The enclosed Ethical principles, which unite health professionals, civilian and military alike, behind a common and concise set of shared principles, are also a call to States, as well as organizations, academia and individuals, to address the issue of violence against health-care professionals and to take a united stand against all forms of disrespect of ethical principles that affect the safe delivery of health care in armed conflict and other emergencies.

Modern international humanitarian law originated from the idea that, to better protect the wounded and sick, it is indispensable to protect medical personnel, transports and facilities. One hundred and fifty-one years ago, this idea met with international consensus and led to the first Geneva Convention of 1864.

However, modern armed conflicts and other emergencies that are governed by legal frameworks other than international humanitarian law are often characterized by the widespread destruction of health infrastructure and the targeting of health personnel. Not only do these attacks take a tragic human toll, they also compromise the ability to deliver health care to people in great need. They pose a formidable challenge to national health systems, not only limiting their effective functioning during instability, but hampering their recovery and development once stability returns.

All States parties to the Geneva Conventions have an obligation to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and thus to make efforts to prevent the occurrence of violations of the obligations under this body of law related to medical personnel and objects. In that regard, the ICRC appreciates the strong international concern and call for action expressed during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in 2014, during which four resolutions were adopted that called upon

States to protect the delivery of health care, reinforce the resilience of national health systems and take appropriate measures to prevent and end violence against health-care professionals. These important achievements at the international level should now be followed by national initiatives to protect health care. By bringing domestic legislation in line with obligations under international law, with the ethical principles set out in this code and by promoting compliance therewith through various strategies, including raising public awareness, training military personnel and supporting health-care organizations, States can ensure that health-care providers are able to work safely and in full compliance with the ethical principles of their profession. The forthcoming International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to be held in December 2015, is an important forum for States to once again express their support for international efforts to protect health care and their voluntary commitment to implementing specific measures at the national level.

I trust that you will give the utmost attention to this initiative and in this respect I would like to assure you that the Health Care in Danger project team and the ICRC as a whole stand ready to continue working with you for the protection of health care.

(*Signed*) Peter **Maurer**

Enclosure

Ethical principles of health care in times of armed conflict and other emergencies

Within the framework of the Health Care in Danger project, the World Medical Association, the International Committee of Military Medicine, the International Council of Nurses and the International Pharmaceutical Federation were consulted by the International Committee of the Red Cross with the aim of those organizations agreeing on a common denominator of ethical principles of health care applicable in times of armed conflict and other emergencies. The following document, which is the result of those consultations, is without prejudice to existing policy documents adopted by those organizations.

Civilian and military health-care organizations share the common goal of improving the safety of their personnel and other health assets and the delivery of impartial and efficient health care in armed conflicts and other emergencies;

Referring to the principles of humanity, whereby human suffering shall be prevented and alleviated wherever it may be found, and impartiality, whereby health care shall be provided with no discrimination;

Bearing in mind the standards of international humanitarian law, in particular the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols, and of international human rights law, specifically the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966);

Considering the principles of professional ethics adopted by health-care professional associations, including the World Medical Association Regulations in Times of Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence;

Endorse the following ethical principles of health care:

General principles

1. Ethical principles of health care do not change in times of armed conflict and other emergencies and are the same as the ethical principles of health care in times of peace.

2. Health-care personnel shall, at all times, act in accordance with relevant international and national law, ethical principles of health care and their conscience. In providing the best available care, they shall take into consideration the equitable use of resources.

3. The primary task of health-care personnel is to preserve human physical and mental health and to alleviate suffering. They shall provide the necessary care with humanity, while respecting the dignity of the person concerned, with no discrimination of any kind, whether in times of peace or of armed conflict or other emergencies.

4. Privileges and facilities afforded to health-care personnel in times of armed conflict and other emergencies are never to be used for purposes other than for health-care needs.

5. No matter what arguments may be put forward, health-care personnel never accept acts of torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under any circumstances, including armed conflict or other emergencies. They must never be present at and may never take part in such acts.

Relations with patients

6. Health-care personnel act in the best interest of their patients and, whenever possible, with their explicit consent. If, in performing their professional duties, they have conflicting loyalties, their primary obligation, in terms of their ethical principles, is to their patients.

7. In armed conflict or other emergencies, health-care personnel are required to render immediate attention and requisite care to the best of their ability. No distinction is made between patients, except in respect of decisions based upon clinical need and available resources.

8. Health-care personnel respect patients' right to confidentiality. It is ethical for health-care personnel to disclose confidential information only with the patient's consent or when there is a real and imminent threat of harm to the patient or to others.

9. Health-care personnel make their best efforts to ensure respect for the privacy of the wounded, sick and deceased, including avoiding the use of health care for the wounded and sick, whether civilian or military, for publicity or political purposes.

Protection of health-care personnel

10. Health-care personnel, as well as health-care facilities and medical transports, whether military or civilian, must be respected by all. They shall be protected while performing their duties, and the safest possible working environment shall be provided to them.

11. Safe access by health-care personnel to patients, health-care facilities and equipment shall not be unduly impeded, nor shall patients' access to health-care facilities and health-care personnel be unduly impeded.

12. In fulfilling their duties and where they have the legal right, health-care personnel are identified by internationally recognized symbols, such as the Red Cross, Red Crescent or Red Crystal, as a visible manifestation of their protection under applicable international law.

13. Health-care personnel shall never be punished for executing their duties in compliance with legal and ethical norms.

Final

14. By endorsing these ethical principles of health care, the signatory organizations commit themselves to work for the promotion and implementation thereof wherever possible, including by appropriate dissemination among their members.

United Nations A/70/428–S/2015/795

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 108
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on measures to eliminate international terrorism, including the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and the approach to international cooperation in efforts to combat terrorism and religious extremism, which was delivered at the first meeting of the Sixth Committee of the seventieth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 108 on Monday, 12 October 2015.

I request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on measures to eliminate international terrorism, including the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and the approach to international cooperation in efforts to combat terrorism and religious extremism

We the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) express our deep concern at the sharp increase in the activities of terrorist and extremist groups, which pose a direct threat to international peace and security.

We are convinced that the terrorist threat can be effectively combated solely on the basis of international law and with the United Nations playing a central and coordinating role. We believe that a multifaceted approach to solving the problem of terrorism, as consolidated in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, is needed more than ever.

We call upon all States to comply strictly with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly on counter-terrorism. We place particular emphasis on the task of opposing financial, ideological and training support for terrorism.

In this connection, we draw attention to recent initiatives of the heads of State of CSTO member countries relating, among other things, to the coordination of the action of all forces opposed to the "Islamic State" (IS) and other terrorist formations; agreement on a relevant Security Council resolution concerning the establishment of a United Nations coalition against terror; the unification of mechanisms for the prosecution of individuals involved in terrorist or extremist activities; the drawing up of a consolidated list of terrorist organizations; and the eradication of the root causes of terrorism and extremism.

Terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. We call on all States to join forces to repel and prevent terrorist threats. Accordingly, we firmly condemn any attempts to politicize the fight against terrorism or to apply a double standard, including for the purpose of interfering, under the banner of counter-terrorism, in the internal affairs of sovereign States and destabilizing Governments deemed to be "undesirable".

We consider that under the present circumstances the top priority is to oppose the leading international terrorist organizations, first and foremost, the Islamic State. We advocate coordination on issues relating to the fight against the Islamic State, above all among all the States that are engaged in that fight.

At this juncture, the task of combating the phenomenon of "foreign terrorist fighters" has taken on particular relevance. Overcoming this very dangerous aspect of the global terrorist threat calls for the implementation by all States of the agreed set of measures envisaged in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular, resolution 2178 (2014); the exchange of information between the

competent authorities on identification of foreign terrorist fighters and their movements; improving border controls; preventing the radicalization and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters; opposing the provision of financing and assistance for the activities of foreign terrorist fighters; instituting more severe penalties for charges brought against foreign terrorist fighters; and expanding international cooperation in this sphere.

We express our readiness to collaborate constructively with all interested States and international organizations, and above all the United Nations, in combating terrorism and other criminal challenges and threats to security.

United Nations S/2015/796

Security Council

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16 October 2015
English
Original: Arabic/English

Letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to draw attention to my letter of 13 October 2015 regarding containers belonging to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). In that letter I stated that "all relevant authorities are commencing on the issue". I should furthermore like to recall the meeting that I had with Your Excellency yesterday, Wednesday, 14 October 2015. It is my honour to inform you that yesterday, Wednesday, 14 October 2015, the competent Sudanese authorities granted customs clearance for the UNAMID containers. This action confirms that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was hasty in sending its note.

In that connection, I should like to reaffirm that the delay was caused by the failure of UNAMID to fulfil customs clearance requirements, including the prior submission of detailed lists of the items that are to be imported, as I informed you in our meeting and as I informed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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